

# Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

Congressman Blumenauer strongly supports a renewable electricity standard, requiring that utilities generate a portion of their energy from renewable sources like wind and solar. He believes that a combination of regulations, tax incentives, and investment in research and development for cleaner energy can stimulate the market and help make financing renewable energy competitive with fossil fuels.

Blumenauer has successfully passed and advocated for numerous bills to support the renewable energy industry:

- **Production Tax Credit**—Blumenauer is a champion to passing a long term extension of this tax credit to give companies greater certainty in making long term financial investment decisions.
- **Rural Wind Energy Development Act**—Blumenauer legislation to create an investment tax credit for small wind turbines passed in 2009.
- **Renewable Energy Expansion Act**—Blumenauer legislation to extend a successful American Recovery and Reinvestment Act program allowing renewable energy developers to monetize investment tax credits that had been due to the economic downturn. The bill was signed into law in December, 2010 as part of the Middle Class Tax Relief package.
- **Ending Big Oil Tax Subsidies Act**—Blumenauer legislation introduced February, 2011 to eliminate federal subsidies to big oil and gas industry and save American taxpayers \$43 billion over five years.
- **Carbon Audit of Tax Code**—Blumenauer legislation requiring the National Academy of Sciences to examine the Internal Revenue Code to determine the effects that each tax provision has on carbon emissions and climate effects.
- **Increasing Energy Efficiency Standards**--The 2007 energy bill signed into law by President Bush includes Blumenauer amendment to increase incentives for natural gas companies to promote energy efficiency. This provision requires natural gas utilities to prioritize and plan for energy efficiency and requires state regulators to consider crafting rate policies that align utility revenue recovery measures with incentives for energy conservation.

### Reducing Carbon Pollution

Congressman Blumenauer was a strong supporter of the American Clean Energy and Security Act, legislation passed by the House of Representatives to comprehensively address climate change. This bill would have placed a price on carbon by utilizing a market-based trading system.

Blumenauer supports using the value created by such a system to fund programs that facilitate clean energy production and efficiency and offset the potential increased cost to consumers and businesses.

Although Congress has not passed comprehensive legislation to reduce carbon pollution, Congressman Blumenauer is pleased to see the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) moving ahead to update the Clean Air Act to regulate greenhouse gas emissions. He strongly opposes efforts in Congress to prevent or delay EPA from regulating carbon pollution.

In the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress, Blumenauer was appointed as the Vice Chairman of the Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming, where he encouraged the committee to focus on the environmental, economic, and national security issues of climate change and energy policy. The new Republican leadership of the House decided not to reinstate the Select Committee in the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Congressman Blumenauer has introduced legislation and proposed policies that will improve the nation's transportation system, reduce emissions and cut our dependence on foreign oil. He strongly supports:

- closing the "Hummer Tax Loophole," which encourages small businesses to buy bigger and less efficient luxury SUVs. This legislation was included in the House passed energy bill in 2007.

- providing people transportation choices (link to CLEAN TEA bill or 1 pager) through increased mass transit, sidewalks, and bike lanes. In 2009, Blumenauer introduced legislation, [CLEAN TEA](#), will accomplish this by providing funding for these strategies through climate legislation.
  - extending transportation fringe benefits for those who commute to work by bike. In 2008, Congress passed, and President Bush signed, Congressman Blumenauer's Bike Commuter Act, which extends transportation fringe benefits, similar to those offered for parking and transit, to those who commute by bicycle. Congressman Blumenauer is also the founder and chairman of the [Congressional Bike Caucus](#).
  - ensuring that our nation's trade policies support and encourage reductions in greenhouse gas emissions in other countries, strengthen the Oregon and US economies, and help industries capture value in a carbon constrained economy.
  - urging government agencies to use the best available science to take climate change into account in planning and risk management.
- pursuing comprehensive adaptation strategies, such as flood mitigation, that will protect lives, keep our economy strong, and enhance the environment. In 2007, the House passed Blumenauer legislation to require the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to take global warming into account when updating its floodplain maps.

## The Federal Government Leading By Example

Congressman Blumenauer worked closely with Speaker Pelosi on the ["Greening of the Capitol"](#) initiative, which successfully lowered the carbon footprint of the House of Representatives by increasing energy efficiency, switching to renewable power, promoting biking and carsharing, and reducing waste. The Republican leadership of the 112<sup>th</sup>

Congress has begun reversing these investments at a cost of [\\$50 million](#).

As a member of the Budget Committee, Congressman Blumenauer works with the Congressional Budget Office and committee members to ensure that CBO's scoring methods capture the true cost and value of the Energy Savings Performance Contract (ESPC) Program. This program enables non-governmental energy service providers to finance, install, and maintain new energy efficient equipment in Federal facilities without any cost to the taxpayers.

No department within the Federal government consumes more energy or manages more infrastructure than the Defense Department. Congressman Blumenauer advocates for

“greening the military” and fights to increase funding to clean up the military’s toxic legacy of unexploded ordnance, or UXO. He founded the UXO Caucus, which promotes funding for programs such as the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (established 1986), to clean up bombs and toxins left on millions of acres of military lands.